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RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 5933
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RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
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SUBJECT: SEOUL - MEDIA REACTION

East Asia and Pacific: DPRK

"Seoul, Washington Need New North Korea Strategy"

Conservative Chosun Ilbo editorialized (05/11): "It is North Korea's fault that the U.S. is ready to endure the current stalemate. Despite the Obama Administration's expressed intention of direct dialogue, North Korea has made a series of provocations including the long-range missile launch. Washington feels that the North should be made to pay a price before dialogue is resumed. ... However, it is high time to think seriously whether it is appropriate to let this deadlocked situation be prolonged. No one knows for sure what such an unpredictable country as North Korea will do in isolation, and the North will not change its behavior even if we wait [for its change]. There is also very little likelihood of North Korea buckling under international sanctions. For this very reason, the U.S. and the ROK should discuss how to manage this deadlocked situation and share a strategy for dealing with a situation after this impasse."

"Locating an Exit to North Korean Nuclear Issue Stalemate"

Left-leaning Hankyoreh Shinmun editorialized (05/11): "If North Korea continues to make provocations, thereby narrowing the room for negotiations, international calls for sanctions on it will continue to grow. In order to turn this situation around, the U.S. should promptly conclude its review of North Korea policy and engage in high-level talks with North Korea. If the U.S. and North Korea simply speak at cross purposes like they are doing these days, we cannot avoid aggravating the situation."

STANTON